



PATENT APPLICATION  
Docket No.: COS 799

#9  
4/2/03  
Rd

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Kelli E. Prince  
Marcus E. Ledoux  
Honn Tudor  
L. Mark Gremillion

Serial Number: 09/515,314 Examiner: Jennifer A. Leung

Filed: February 29, 2000 Art Unit: 1764

For: Improved Apparatus for Dehydrogenation of Ethylbenzene to Styrene

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

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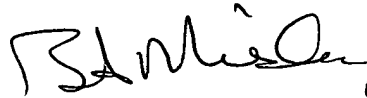
In response to the Office Action of February 5, 2003, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, claims 4, 5 and 6 in Group IIA drawn to a process for improving fluid flow uniformity, classified in class 423. Accordingly, please provisionally cancel claims 1-3 of Group I and claims 7-8 of Group IIB.

Applicants content that the claims of Group I, IIA and IIB are related in that each are directed to a means of improving fluid flow uniformity in a particular type of reactor. Each of the claims comprise an outer reaction vessel, an inner displacement cylinder/vessel, an annular catalyst bed, and adding at least one baffle to the displacement cylinder/vessel to improve fluid flow. The improvement of fluid flow uniformity through a reactor catalyst

bed will lead to extended catalyst life, as disclosed on page 9 lines 3-14 of the application.

Applicants contend that claims 1-8 are, therefore, connected in design, operation and effect and request reconsideration.

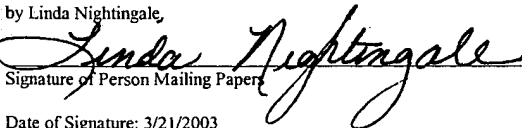
Respectfully submitted,



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